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Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re : *Ex Parte* Presentation: WT Docket No. 01-108
Year 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 22**

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. ("AWS"), this letter is written to supplement the record in the above-referenced rulemaking proceeding^{1/} by providing the Commission with additional information that supports elimination of Commission rules requiring Part 22 cellular radiotelephone licensees to provide analog services.^{2/}

In comments filed in this proceeding, AWS already has demonstrated that the public interest would be served by elimination of the cellular analog requirement.^{3/} There are also a number of practical reasons why the analog requirement should not be retained

Commercial mobile radio service ("CMRS") providers such as AWS actively employ several different transmission protocols and standards (*e.g.*, GSM/GPRS, CDPD, and IS-136) to ensure the best possible service to their customers. Arbitrarily requiring AWS also to support outdated AMPS systems significantly increases their costs because they must continue to maintain the aging analog equipment, as well as ensure that they keep a sufficient store of spare parts on hand. In addition, AWS technical personnel have

^{1/} See *Year 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review – Amendment Of Part 22 Of The Commission's Rules To Modify Or Eliminate Outdated Rules Affecting The Cellular Radiotelephone Service And Other Commercial Mobile Radio Services*, WT Docket No. 01-108, *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, FCC 01-153 (rel. May 17, 2001) ("*Part 22 NPRM*").

^{2/} 47 C.F.R. §§ 22.901(d), 22.933 (2000).

^{3/} See Comments of AWS at 2-4 on *Part 22 NPRM* (filed July 2, 2001); see also Reply Comments of AWS *Part 22 NPRM* at 2-3 (filed August 1, 2001). AWS noted, for example, that digital services are more spectrally efficient and enable feature-rich telecommunications services.

to devote considerable time and effort to analog maintenance and repairs and new technicians have to be trained on analog equipment instead of focusing on the newer technologies used primarily in AWS's network. Given the lack of demand for analog services, these costs are well out of proportion to the revenues AWS is able to generate from the provision of such services.

Retention of AMPS systems also increases AWS's cost of transporting telecommunications traffic. In particular, continued support of AMPS systems at approximately 9000 cell sites requires AWS to establish extra facilities for the transport of that traffic throughout its network, in addition to provisioning its switches to accommodate the analog signal. High dedicated transport costs, as the Commission has noted in other contexts, reduce the profitability of CMRS systems.^{4/}

Finally, as AWS explained in its comments in this proceeding, one of the major detriments of requiring cellular carriers to retain analog service is the resulting spectrum inefficiency. In the near future, wireless carriers likely will be facing spectrum constraints in many large markets, yet the analog rule requires them to dedicate valuable channels to a service that most customers do not want and do not use. This translates into increased costs for cellular carriers and ultimately may mean less robust service for subscribers.

Based on the foregoing, AWS encourages the Commission to eliminate the cellular analog requirement. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Douglas I. Brandon

Douglas I. Brandon

cc: Roger Noel, Deputy Chief,
Commercial Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

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^{4/} See *Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers*, CC Docket No. 01-338, *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, FCC 01-361, n.41 (rel. Dec. 20, 2001).